



Central Update

APRIL 2017

A Quarterly Publication of
Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District

The Jackson MPO Announces Funding for 26 Metro-Area Transportation Projects

In February, the Jackson Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved \$20.1 million in Federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for metro-area transportation projects aimed at reducing congestion and improving the safety and efficiency of the regional transportation system. The STBG program is a federal-aid transportation program that provides funding through the MPO to local municipalities and counties for transportation improvements in the urbanized area.

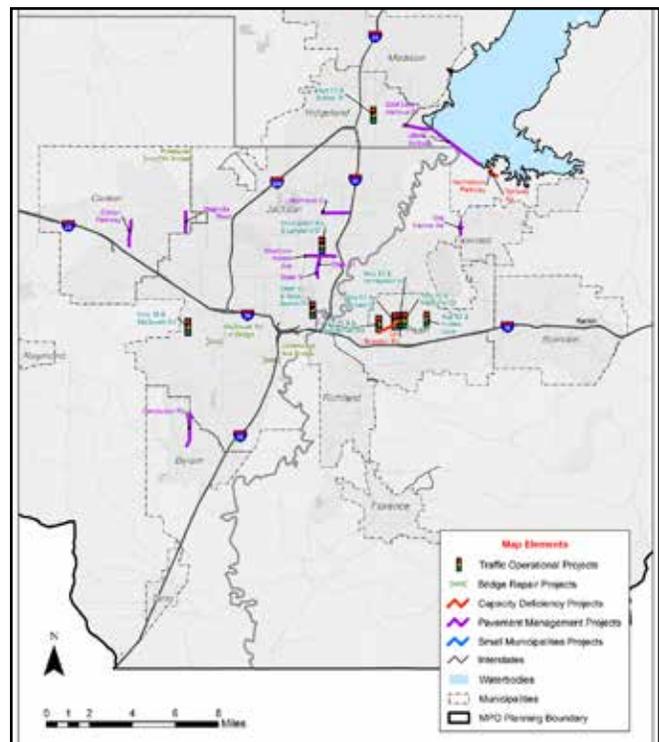
Funding approved by the MPO will support community-based projects that integrate transportation enhancements and provides for new economic development opportunities in the metro-area. Funding for these projects is available through the MPO as part of the 2015 Transportation Bill, Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act.

This year, the MPO focused on providing funding to projects that can be completed in a relatively short timeframe, and that address safety, pavement condition, and congestion concerns. In total, CMPDD received 42 applications requesting more than \$34 million in funding. However, the MPO only has enough funds available to fund the top twenty-six (26) rated projects. Combined, cities and counties receiving the \$20.1 million in transportation funding have committed to provide over \$8.6 million in local matching funds.

Projects selected for funding such as resurfacing Clinton Parkway and installing upgraded traffic signals at Old Canton Road and Lakeland Drive should be completed in a relatively short timeframe (1 to 2 years) while other projects such as the widening of Old Brandon Road will take a lengthier timeframe to complete.

Local jurisdictions submitted applications to CMPDD back in October 2016. The applications were then graded and evaluated based on the proposed project type (bridge repair, traffic operational improvement, capacity deficiency, pavement management, or small municipality) category. The scoring criteria for each project type varies slightly, but in general projects were rated based on:

- Whether or not the project provided more than the minimum required local matching funds.



- What percentage of the total funds available did the project request? Projects requesting the least amount of Federal funding received priority.
- Whether or not the project is ready to go to construction. Projects ready to proceed to construction were given priority over projects that may still have design work and/or utility and right-of-way factors to address.
- In addition, projects were evaluated on elements specific to each project category such as pavement condition, daily traffic volume, bridge sufficiency ratings, or travel time delays.

Projects rating the highest in each category were selected by the MPO Policy Committee to receive Federal STBG grant

(see *Transportation Projects* on p.2)

Transportation Projects *(continued from p.1)*

funding by the Jackson MPO. For more information regarding the MPO transportation planning process visit the MPO website at www.cmpdd.org.

Projects selected for STBG funding by the MPO include:

Entity	Project	MPO Funding	Local Matching Funds
Traffic Operational Improvements			
Jackson	Traffic signal upgrades at State Street and Silas Brown Street	\$325,000	\$0
Jackson	Traffic signal upgrades at Old Canton Road and Lakeland Drive/Fondren	\$375,000	\$0
Jackson	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 18 and McDowell Road	\$275,000	\$0
Pearl	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 80 and Service Drive	\$202,600	\$0
Pearl	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 80 and Pemberton Drive	\$202,600	\$0
Pearl	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 80 and Bierdeman Road	\$209,194	\$0
Pearl	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 80 and Pirate's Cove	\$209,194	\$0
Pearl	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 80 and Mary Ann Drive	\$202,600	\$0
Ridgeland	Traffic signal upgrades at Highway 51 and School Street	\$288,972	\$874,948
Bridge Repair			
Clinton	Pinehaven Road Bridge Replacement	\$1,621,667	\$405,417
Jackson	McDowell Road Ext. Bridge Replacement	\$250,000	\$1,330,000
Jackson	Greenwood Ave. Bridge Replacement	\$200,000	\$330,000
Capacity Deficiency Projects			
Pearl	Old Brandon Road widening with a center turn lane from Bierdeman Road to Pemberton Drive	\$2,000,000	\$500,000
Rankin County	Northshore Parkway widening with a turn lane west bound onto Spillway Road	\$802,356	\$216,708
Rankin County	Spillway Road widening by adding a 5th lane from Pelahatchie Shore Drive to Hugh Ward Blvd.	\$448,344	\$176,536
Pavement Management Projects			
Byram	Henderson Road: Siwell Road to City Limits	\$736,015	\$315,435
Clinton	Clinton Parkway: Highway 80 to Northside Drive	\$590,849	\$393,899
Clinton	Magnolia Road: Old Vicksburg Road to Northside Drive	\$288,972	\$721,192
Flowood	Old Fannin Road: Lakeland Drive north 3475'	\$371,000	\$159,000
Jackson	State Street: Fortification Street to Webster Street	\$1,859,644	\$619,881
Jackson	Northside Drive: I-55 to State Street	\$1,415,681	\$471,894
Jackson	State Street: Webster Street to Woodrow Wilson Ave.	\$2,029,106	\$676,369
Jackson	Woodrow Wilson Ave.: I-55 to Mill Street	\$2,026,013	\$675,338
Pearl River Valley Water Supply District	Upper Spillway: West end to East end of Dam	\$1,260,000	\$315,000
Ridgeland	East Lake Harbour Drive: Northpark Drive to Breakers Lane	\$1,712,000	\$428,000
Small Municipalities			
Flora	Cox Ferry Road: City Limits to Kearney Park Road	\$289,220	\$72,305

Delta Regional Authority Technical Assistance

The District recently completed the 2017 Update of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Allocation Funding Model that CMPDD developed to assist the DRA in analyzing economic indicators on an annual basis. This project is quite data intensive and requires update and analysis of unemployment, poverty, and per capita income data (the criteria) for all the coun-

ties in the DRA to determine which counties are distressed according to the most recent and accurate data available. The end result is a spreadsheet funding model that allows the DRA to allocate certain funding to states with distressed counties and thereby insure that funding is targeted to those most in need of assistance.

Recreational Trails Program Applications Submitted

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks Outdoor Recreation Grants Division once again accepted applications for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The RTP is an 80/20 match program for the development of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails in Mississippi. The 2016-2017 program was designed to encourage the construction of new trail projects that benefit the environment and the redesign, reconstruction, non-routine maintenance, or relocation of trails that mitigate and minimize the impact to the natural environment. Project sponsors are encouraged to work in partnership with trail-user groups, volunteer groups, the business community, local, state, and federal agencies to develop projects that benefit the various modes of trail uses in a safe and satisfying manner.

This year CMPDD assisted the Town of Edwards with completing a Phase I application for the RTP funds. Phase I of the project includes 880 linear feet of an 8 feet wide asphalt trail and 125 linear feet of a 6 feet wide asphalt trail, 2 removable bollards, 1.5 acres of green/grass space, and a concrete ramp with railings. Future plans for development of Phase II include a splash pad, restrooms and a stage.

CMPDD's Medicaid Waiver Program Update

CMPDD's Elderly and Disabled (E&D) Home and Community Based Medicaid Waiver program provides Case Management and Home Delivered Meal services to Medicaid eligible elderly and / or disabled recipients who desire to remain in their home setting. The Registered Nurse and Licensed Social Worker team assess the needs of the recipients, coordinate, and manage the services on a monthly basis.

- The Mississippi Division of Medicaid has issued public notice for the submission of the Elderly & Disabled Waiver Renewal effective July 1, 2017, to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS). When approved, the Waiver will be pursuant July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022. The public notice and draft may be viewed at <https://medicaid.ms.gov/public-notice-for-the-elderly-and-disabled-ed-waiver-renewal/>.
- March 2017 is National Social Work Month. This year's theme is "Social Workers Stand Up."

Social Workers stand up for millions of people every day. CMPDD's Social Workers stand up for our elderly and disabled individuals by providing services, guidance, and assistance. For this, CMPDD says Thank You!

For more information, please contact Teresa Shoto, RN, Case Management Director, at 601-855-5914 or tburrell@cmpdd.org.

Rankin County Adopts New Comprehensive Plan

At the March 6th meeting of the Rankin County Board of Supervisors the Board adopted a new Comprehensive Plan aimed at guiding future growth and development in Rankin County. Since the adoption of the first Comprehensive Plan for the County in 2004, the population has continued to show steady gains increasing by over 30,000 persons in 2016. The County has also experienced significant growth in retail commercial development, especially in west Rankin County along the Lakeland Drive and Highway 49 corridors. As evident by this most recent plan update, county leaders continue to show that they recognize the importance of the Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations in managing growth.

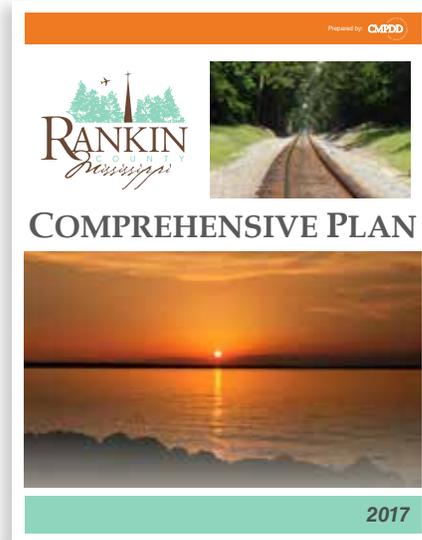
The new Comprehensive Plan incorporates an additional chapter on Economic Development that analyzes the labor force, and commuting patterns. In addition, this section contains a detailed



CMPDD Principal Planner David Wade addresses the Rankin County Board of Supervisors.

inventory of all businesses in Rankin County including numbers of employees by service sector. Building permits were also analyzed to better understand the characteristics and location of housing built since the last plan update in 2010.

This new plan also incorporates a new online technology called Story Maps that is intended to engage the public by incorporating interactive maps, pictures



and videos into the written plan. This internet based application allows for the plan to be more visually appealing to the reader as well as allow for the plan to be used as an economic development tool to promote the County worldwide.

Hazard Mitigation Planning Update

Over the last few months, CMPDD began working with several local jurisdictions to update their existing Hazard Mitigation Plans. These include the Cities of Byram, Pearl and Terry, as well as Jackson State University. The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requires local jurisdictions to maintain an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan in order to maintain grant eligibility for certain pre-disaster and post-disaster grant programs available through the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition, plans are required to be reviewed and updated every five years to account for any changes that could increase or decrease a communities risk to a particular hazard.

Predicting where the next disaster will occur, and how severe its impact will be on a community is essentially an impossible task. Given the right conditions, natural disasters, such as tornadoes and flash floods, can occur at anytime and anywhere. The human and financial consequences of such

devastating occurrences can be overwhelming to government officials, emergency responders and those personally affected. Mitigation planning is intended to assist communities in determining their risks to natural disasters and developing an action plan to address the known risks by lessening the impact of natural disasters when they do take place.

In the past year, revised Mitigation Plans were developed and approved for Benton, Brandon, Clinton, Edin, Florida, Florence, Flowood, Georgetown, Hazlehurst, Jackson, Richland, Ridgeland, Pelahatchie, Sartartia, Vicksburg, Wesson, Yazoo City, Copiah County, Madison County, Rankin County, Warren County, and Yazoo County. For more information concerning the mitigation planning process underway or to find out how you can be involved in the process, contact Lesley Callender, or CMPDD Planning Staff, at 601-981-1511 or visit the District's mitigation website page www.cmpdd.org/mitigation-planning/.

Planning Update

DeSoto County

District staff completed a draft of the fourth of five articles in the update and reorganization of the DeSoto County Zoning Ordinance. This article, "Zoning District Regulations," includes 18 agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial zoning districts and 11 overlay districts. The five newest overlay districts cover the five sectors of the I-69/I-269 corridor through DeSoto County.

The overlay district regulations for each of the five sectors were derived from the five sector plans and fifteen place types found in the 2013 DeSoto County Stewardship Plan. The sector plans outlined the community character and land use recommendations for each of the five sectors. The fifteen place types are as follows: 1) Natural Landscapes, 2) Farmland, 3) Rural Residential, 4) Village, 5) Conservation Subdivision, 6) Traditional Neighborhood, 7) Suburban Neighborhood, 8) Multi-family Residential, 9) Neighborhood Commercial, 10) Hamlet, 11) Mixed Use Business/Town Center, 12) Interstate Highway, 13) Special Districts/Campus, 14) Corridor Commercial, and 15) Indus-

trial. These place types are intended to guide the design and form of new development occurring within the corridor sectors.

District staff will next revise Article V: Administration and Enforcement. After the county has reviewed and commented on each ordinance article, a second draft will be prepared. It will be reviewed and changes made until a satisfactory version is reached.

City of Vicksburg

District staff worked with the city of Vicksburg to develop a Comprehensive Housing Plan. The plan examines the history of housing in Vicksburg and the need to establish a plan. Based on an analysis of Vicksburg's housing supply and demand the plan proposes newly developed housing goals, policies, and objectives.

One of the major thrusts of the plan was the goal to ensure the availability of affordable housing in low-and-moderate income neighborhoods. One means of providing affordable housing is to use manufactured and modular housing with architectural control requirements as infill housing in existing neighborhoods.

The plan concludes by listing some down payment programs for first time homebuyers. These programs are as follows: 1) the Revenue Bond Program sponsored by the MS Home Corporation, 2) Home Equity Leverage Program (HELP) sponsored by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas, 3) A program of down payment assistance for disabled homeowners or family members in the home sponsored by the University of Southern Mississippi Institute of Disabilities Studies (IDS), 4) MS Home Corporation Smart Solution or Smart Solution Premium Program that is a 30-year fixed rate mortgage with a 3% or 4% down payment, 5) the MS Home Corporation Teachers Program, 6) Habitat for Humanity Program, and 7) the USDA Rural Development Program.

The plan identifies three areas or neighborhoods to begin the needed housing redevelopment: the Martin Luther King Neighborhood Planning District, the Marcus Bottom Overlay District, and the Oak Street Corridor. A seven-member Vicksburg Housing Committee will develop and oversee work plans for each neighborhood.

2017 MAPDD Conference

The Mississippi Association of Planning and Development Districts (MAPDD) held its annual conference in Biloxi at the Beau Rivage, March 21st-24th. This year's conference was attended by over 550 individuals from across the State and based on all the positive feedback throughout the week the conference was a huge success once again. Key note speakers at this year's conference included Mississippi Division of Human Services Executive Director John Davis, Mississippi's Attorney General Jim Hood, and Mississippi's Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann. Concurrent sessions were also offered during the conference with pertinent topics ranging from human trafficking, digital mapping, grant funding and Mississippi's workforce. Plans are already underway for next year's conference. Mark your calendars for April 24-27, 2018 at the Beau Rivage to participate in MAPDD's next conference.



Utility Construction Complete to Serve New Copiah County Medical Center



Through a combination of grant application services and administration assistance from CMPDD, construction of water and sewer infrastructure to support the new Copiah County Medical Center (CCMC), formerly Hardy Wilson Memorial Hospital, in Hazlehurst is now complete. CMPDD assisted the City of Hazlehurst and the Copiah Water Association in securing grant funds to supply the necessary infrastructure to the hospital site, which is located just off Interstate 55 on Highway 28.

The City of Hazlehurst extended an existing sewer main from the east side of Interstate 55 to the site, which is west of Interstate 55. The City was awarded \$570,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) and \$204,000 from the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), totaling \$774,000 to complete the project. However, bids for the project came in well under budget

and the City was able to complete the project for just under \$400,000.

The Copiah Water Association utilized \$385,055 of Economic Development Administration (EDA) funding to provide water infrastructure to the site. The Copiah Water Association is providing matching funds of \$278,000 to complete the project. These funds allowed for the installation of a new main line, storage tank with pump, an emergency generator, and a chlorination system.

The Copiah County Hospital Authority and Copiah County Board of Supervisors held a ribbon cutting on February 14, 2017 and the Copiah County Medical Center was fully operational on February 21, 2017. The CCMC, which is a state of the art facility, cost \$16 million and will create 29 new jobs.

Local Workforce Area Sector Strategy Planning

Southcentral Mississippi Works (SMW) is the seventeen county workforce area which serves individuals and employers in the central and southwest part of the state. CMPDD serves as the fiscal administrative entity for the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds provided through the U.S. Department of Labor. These federal funds provide various employment and training opportunities to the citizens of our workforce area.

Under the direction and guidance of the State Workforce Investment Board, each of the four local workforce areas in the state are in the process of developing a Sector Strategy Plan for their respective areas. The purpose of this initiative, which is just one step in the implementation of Mississippi's Smart Start Career

Pathway Plan, is to address current and emerging skill gaps; create industry specific workforce solutions; and better align state programs and resources serving employers and workers. In order to meet these objectives, SMW is working to identify employers' workforce needs and skill gaps; identify available state, educational and workforce development resources; and identify the gaps in employers' abilities to access state and workforce resources.

Labor market information and other pertinent workforce data indicates that healthcare and manufacturing are the SMW workforce area's most in-demand occupational areas. These two areas will be the targeted industries included in the Sector Strategy Plan. CMPDD's workforce staff have partnered with the Mississippi Hospi-



tal Association, the Greater Jackson Alliance, and Hinds Community College to form leadership teams for each of these two industry sectors to assist in the development of the sector strategy plan. One component of this plan will be programs and activities designed to meet the skill gaps of workers and the hiring and training needs of the industry employers. Members of the leadership

teams are healthcare and manufacturing industry representatives, economic development organizations, community college and K-12 leaders, and a host of other individuals who have insight into the needs and struggles of these industry sectors, and who can contribute to the design of methods for addressing the issues.

Town of Puckett Completes CDBG Economic Development Project

The Town of Puckett recently completed a \$296,000 road improvement project to better serve R-Squared Puckett, Inc., which is a business that manufactures aluminum heat exchanger components for automotive, off road, residential, and commercial air-conditioning markets. The Town received a CDBG Economic Development award in the amount of \$426,700 and Rankin County provided \$47,412 in assistance to fund the project. The funds were used to widen an existing roadway to allow easier and safer access to R-Squared Puckett, Inc., as well as to relocate utilities as a result of the roadway improvements. R-Squared Puckett, Inc. has invested approximately \$2 million in building and equipment improvements. Additionally, the Town's only industry has created 50 new jobs bringing the total employed in the business to approximately 150.

The CDBG Economic Development program provides grants to local governments for construction of public improvements or loans necessary to secure the location or ex-

CMPDD Staff Member Receives DRA Training Certification

CMPDD staff member, Mitzi Stubbs, recently completed the 2017 Annual Delta Regional Authority (DRA) Professional Development Academy and is now re-certified as a DRA Project Coordinator.



pansion of business or industry in Mississippi. The purpose of the program is to assist projects that create new job opportunities for citizens of Mississippi, especially persons who are from low to moderate income families.

CMDC BULLETIN

Ms. Wanda Cowart, President of the Central Mississippi Development Company, Inc. (CMDC), announced the approval of two (2) new loans.

The first loan was for Albriton's Jewelry, Inc. for \$1,117,566 of a \$2,793,917 project under the United States Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The proceeds of this loan will partially finance the construction of a new building for store in Jackson, Mississippi. This business will add two (2) new jobs to the four (4) existing jobs in the private sector.

The second loan was for The Kid's World Center, LLC for \$150,000 of a \$315,000 project under the Mississippi Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program (MBELP). The proceeds of this loan will partially finance the construction of an additional building. This new building will allow this business to serve forty (40) more children at its after school facility in Madison, Mississippi. This existing business will create two (2) new jobs in the private sector.

CMDC is a U. S. Small Business Administration's approved Certified Development Company (CDC). It works with local banks and other financial institutions in providing business loans to small businesses. These loans allow a small business to finance land, building, and equipment with a low down payment and long term financing at competitive interest rates. Fixed rate low interest financing for small businesses saves thousands of dollars in debt service on fixed assets. Also, this type financing provides an alternative to variable rate financing on long term assets. Many economic forecasters are certain that interest rates will rise. These predictable interest rate increases will not have a negative impact on the cash flow of those businesses that have fixed rate low interest



CMDC's SBA 504 Loan Program provided some of the financing for the construction of Stacy's Skillet Restaurant in Columbia, MS. The loan was approved in

2015 and the business opened in 2016 creating 5 jobs.

loans through the U. S. Small Business Administration's 504 Loan Program. The maximum loan amount is 40% of the total project cost up to a maximum loan amount of \$5,000,000 depending on the type of project. The maximum amount for eligible manufacturing projects is \$5,500,000.

Ms. Wanda Cowart announced that the current interest rates on business loans under the U. S. Small Business Administration's CMDC remain low. The interest rates are as follow:

<u>TERM (YEARS)</u>	<u>INTEREST RATE</u>
10 (March 2017)	4.82%
20 (March 2017)	4.83%

The interest rate on loans made under the Mississippi Minority Business Loan Program has increased from 3.25% to 3.50% per annum (Federal Reserve Discount Rate increased by 25 basis points). The maximum term is 15 years depending on the use of the loan proceeds.

Please visit our website (www.cmpdd.org) for a complete listing of our other loan programs. Also, we invite you to contact Larry Anderson or Dwayne Perkins at 601.981.1625 for more information on these various programs available to small businesses.

DRA Announces 2017 Application Cycle

Delta Regional Authority (DRA) has announced the 2017 round of the State's Economic Development Assistance Program (SEDAP) investments. SEDAP investments may be used to fund projects for basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, business development (with focus on entrepreneurship), and workforce development. In Central Mississippi, the SEDAP program is only open to public and non-profit entities in the DRA-designated counties. To find out if your project is located

within the DRA designated area or for more information about DRA, please visit their website www.dra.gov. This year approximately \$1,635,000 will be available for the State of Mississippi.

Project applications may be completed online at www.dra.gov and submitted to CMPDD beginning February 9th and ending May 31st. Local governments, public bodies, and non-profit entities in the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD) area that are interested in participating in the 2017 DRA Federal

Grant Program should contact Mitzi Stubbs at 601.981.1511 to begin the application process.

DRA is a federal-state partnership created by Congress, which serves a 252 county/parish area in an eight-state region. In Mississippi, 47 counties (including all 7 CMPDD counties) are eligible for funding under DRA. The purpose of DRA is to remedy severe and chronic economic distress by stimulating economic development partnerships that will have a positive impact on the region's economy.

CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
P.O. Box 4935 • 1170 Lakeland Drive • Jackson, Mississippi 39296-4935
Phone: 601-981-1511 • Fax: 601-981-1515 • www.cmpdd.org

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If the name and address of the recipient needs to be updated, please contact our office at 601-981-1511.

McNeely Plastics Expansion

CMPDD staff presented officials of McNeely Plastics, Inc., Copiah County, and Copiah County Economic Development District with a National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) award for Innovative Projects. This NADO award was for the McNeely Plastics expansion project.



From left: Elise Munn, Chuck Carr, Brenda Harper, Mitzi Stubbs, Greg McNeely, Wayne Davis, Terry Channell, Jimmy Phillips, Pokey Evans, Darrell McMillian, Rita Payton, Perry Hood, Shannon Watts, Kenneth Powell

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Volume 32 Number 2

Central Mississippi Planning &
Development District / Area Agency on Aging

**SENIORS GROOVING TO
A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE!**

May 16, 2017 at 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Mississippi Agriculture Museum, Sparkman Auditorium

For more information contact: Dr. Chelsea B. Crittle, *Aging Program Director* • Phone: 601-981-1516 ext. 230

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